

11 NOV 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : A NATO Verification Planning Group?

REFERENCE: My memorandum to the DDI, same subject,
dated 5 November 1969

25X1C

1. On 10 November 1969, I called Gen. John Davis at ACDA to give him our reaction to the proposal of Gerry Smith that a Verification Planning Group be established in NATO. In brief, I told him that such a proposal had implications [REDACTED] 25X1C

[REDACTED] that we had reservations about this, and that we would like to talk informally with Gerry Smith about his idea before he went to Secretary Richardson with a proposal. I suggested that we plan to meet on this after Mr. Smith's return from Helsinki.

2. Gen. Davis said he would pass our views to Smith. A short while later, Davis called back to say that Smith has in mind enabling the Secretary of State to raise a VPG proposal at the NATO ministerial meeting in December. For that reason, he would like to have Phil Farley (who will be Acting Director of ACDA while Smith is in Finland) and Davis come over to talk about the proposal in the next week or so. 25X1C

3. I urged Gen. Davis to have thought the proposal through--what it is meant to do, how it would work, and what the implications [REDACTED] are--before they came over. I suggested that he send us something in writing first so we can give full consideration to Gerry Smith's proposal. Davis said he would see what he could do and would be in touch with me later.

4. I passed this in brief to the DDI late 10 November 1969.

25X1A9a

[REDACTED]
BRUCE C. CLARKE, Jr.
Director
Strategic Research

SECRET

5 November 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence *RF*
SUBJECT : A NATO Verification Planning Group?

1. Attached is a memorandum from Gerry Smith to Phil Farley in which Gerry says that he has raised with Secretary Richardson the possibility of having a "Verification Planning Group" in NATO. Smith feels Richardson was receptive to the idea and suggests a memorandum be prepared that would formally propose it. Smith's note went to Jack Davis for action. Davis told Farley he thought Mr. Helm's informal reaction to this proposal should be sought before ACDA went ahead, and he contacted me on it.

2. In elaboration of the idea as he now understands it, Davis says that the model for a VPG in Gerry Smith's mind is the Nuclear Planning Group. That is, the VPG would be a very small, high level group, self-contained, with no general circulation of its papers, but dealing with verification problems across the board. In his note to Farley, Smith cites the utility of such a group as helping to "make a small start on the disclosure of our capabilities that we will have to make in connection with any SALT" (2) and "a way to get across in future SALT consultations what our unilateral verification capabilities are like" (7).

25X1C

3. The clear implication is that a VPG would be a way of dealing with NATO [redacted] on a more or less routine basis. It is conceivable that a VPG could be started at a lesser level and have useful work at that level. The references to the "upcoming possible field test" (4) and to "balanced force reductions" (5) concern activities that involve aspects of verification without necessarily involving [redacted] But I think

25X1D0a

TCS 867950/69
Copy No. 1

SECRET

we should expect--and the other NATO countries would expect--that the intention of the US in advancing the VPG proposal was to find a way to share our unilateral verification capabilities with NATO.

4. No written reply to Jack Davis is required at this point. I can convey to him an attitude or concern you believe is appropriate at this time. I suspect this matter is not at the top of Gerry Smith's list these days and that we can ask him, through Davis, to put the idea aside for the time being. Then, at some point after Helsinki, we could ask Gerry Smith to come out to talk to us, both to get a clearer understanding of his purposes and to communicate our views directly and informally.

25X1A9a

BRUCE C. CLARKE, Jr.
Director
Strategic Research

Attachment:

ACDA ltr dtd 20 Oct 1969
to Phil Farley from
Gerry Smith

File: OSR

CONTROL NO. TCS 867950/69

Copy No. 1

REFERRED TO OFFICE	RECEIVED			RELEASED		SEEN BY	
	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME	DATE	TIME	NAME & OFFICE SYMBOL	DATE
Deputy Director for Intelligence							
	DDI - Note: A copy has been sent						
	to Mr. Proctor. No other dissem.						

25X1A

Handle Via Indicated Controls

TALENT -KEYHOLE

.....

.....

.....

original returned to Bruce Clarke, OSR 11/7/69

WARNING

This document contains information affecting the national security of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws U. S. Code Title 18, Sections 793 and 794. The law prohibits its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person, as well as its use in any manner prejudicial to the safety or interest of the United States or for the benefit of any foreign government to the detriment of the United States. It is to be seen only by personnel especially indoctrinated and authorized to receive information in the designated control channels. Its security must be maintained in accordance with regulations pertaining to TALENT-KEYHOLE Control System.

TOP SECRET